

(From ST. ANTHONY'S MESSENGER.)

False and True History of Spanish America.

(CONCLUSION.)

"By declaring the Indian to be a crown vassal, the laws placed him on an equal footing with the native of Spain in one sense, and yet, practically, he enjoyed a much more favorable position. He became a special ward of the royal government, and the complaint by Spanish settlers is very well grounded, that everything was done for the Indian, and but little for them. The original form of the Indian government was maintained, and only such modifications made as became necessary to assure the supremacy of Spain in case of need." "Any other nation governing the Indian according to European systems might have achieved similar results; but the special merit of Spain consists in having achieved them, whereas other nations occupying American soil have given comparatively little attention to the well-being and conservation of the red man. Certain it is, that the Spanish laws of the Indias are by far the most beneficent, the most humane, and the most practical that were ever framed for the government of the aborigines."

But to return again to "Las Casas," we quote the following passage from A. F. Bandelier's book already mentioned: "It is evident that in Spanish America, as well as everywhere else, the strict decree of the Crown in behalf of the Indian were sometimes evaded or disregarded, and the native occasionally treated with cruelty. But these instances were *only exceptions, and not the rule*. Las Casas in his injudicious diatribes has completely misrepresented the facts in many cases. He was an honest, but utterly impractical enthusiast, who failed to understand both the Indian and the new issue placed before the Indian through the discovery of America, and who condemned everything and everybody from the moment that they did not agree with his theories and plans